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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -
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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

1. Summary: Coverage of the major Chinese-language Taipei dailies continued to focus on KMT Vice Chairman P.K. Chiang's visit to China and the ten-point consensus reached between the KMT and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Several newspapers reported on either their front or first few pages that KMT Chairman Lien Chan is likely to visit China and meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao in May at the invitation of Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee Chairman Jia Qinglin. The centrist "China Times" reported on page two that an anonymous U.S. Department of State official said Thursday the United States is happy to see any move that could reduce cross-strait tensions and welcomes cross-strait visits to solve differences between Taiwan and China.

2. A pro-independence "Liberty Times" editorial questioned the DPP government's "effective opening" policy toward Taiwan investment in China, saying that if the DPP continues to implement the policy, it will give Taiwan people sufficient reasons to suspect that the DPP is manipulating the Taiwan people's patriotism and is actually pursuing a strategy to unify with China. A "China Times" editorial, however, urged both sides of the Taiwan Strait to give up military confrontation and to start a "peaceful race" with each other. A news analysis in the "United Daily News" commented on Chiang's visit to China, saying Beijing is seizing this opportunity to "kill two birds with one stone," namely, to show the Americans that it is as good as its word and yet squeeze the space for "Taiwan independence secessionists" in Taiwan and in the world. End summary.

A) "Can Taiwan People's Morale Incited during the March 26 [Mass Rally] Afford to Take the Fall of the Government?"

The pro-independence "Liberty Times" [circulation: 800,000] noted in an editorial (4/1):

"The DPP officials, on the one hand, cried that the 'Anti-Secession Law' is a war authorization bill and asked the Taiwan people to voice [their anger]. But on the other hand, they said that the policy of 'effective opening' [Taiwan investment in the Chinese market] remains unchanged and that Taiwan is awaiting China's goodwill response. Just imagine -- if the Anti-Secession Law is a war authorization bill, how can Taiwan expect any goodwill gesture from China unless the latter abolishes the law[?] It is really astonishing to see the fallacy and confusion of our government's policy when it is talking about opening investment of high-tech and petrochemical industries in a country [i.e. China] that can launch a war against Taiwan at anytime. .

"We have no intention to criticize the government; we just hope that the government can make up its mind and be determined to face the fallacy of its effective opening policy. . If the government fails again to obey the strong public view demonstrated during the March 26 mass rally and continues to misread public opinion by allowing further interactions with China and pushing for direct cross-strait charter flights to meet the needs of Taiwan investors in China, we may not be able to judge, but will have sufficient reasons to suspect and speculate that the DPP is just trying to use localized language to manipulate the patriotism of the Taiwan people. We will suspect that what the DPP is doing is really pursuing final unification [with China]. . We hope that under the wise leadership of the DPP, the March 26 mass rally will not become the beginning of another fall of Taiwan."

B) "Facing Taiwan, China Must Make a Choice between Non-Peace and Peace"

The centrist, pro-status quo "China Times"

[circulation: 600,000] editorialized (4/1):

"Beijing's enactment and announcement of the Anti-Secession Law in mid-March has sparked doubts in the international community and triggered backlashes from the people in Taiwan. In terms of the long-term development of cross-Straits relations, the move also indicated that under the constraint of the international community, which is headed by the United States, the bottom lines that Taiwan must not declare independence and Beijing must not use force [against Taiwan] will become clearer and clearer. There will be less space left for ambiguity or for both sides to push the envelope. As a result, both sides of the Taiwan Strait will have to find a favorable foundation of their own where they can settle down under this framework and even develop a reciprocal cooperative pattern with each other. .

". Therefore, we need to remind the Beijing authorities once again that when working out relevant policies toward Taiwan, it must seek to sincerely create a situation that is favorable for both sides to interact and cooperate peacefully. It must not speak sweet words while being ready to plant a sword in [Taiwan's] back or play a double-handed strategy, nor must it regard every move as a means of achieving a united front. ."

C) "Beijing Tries to Show the Americans That It Is 'As Good As Its Word'"

Journalist Wang Li-chuan commented in the conservative, pro-unification "United Daily News" [circulation: 600,000] (4/1):

". Beijing's move [with regard to KMT Vice Chairman P.K. Chiang's visit] can be viewed as 'killing two birds with one stone;' namely, it opens up a new channel for dialogue for both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and in the meantime, it has reacted positively to the United States and the international community which expect China to adopt measures to reduce the cross-Straits tensions triggered by the Anti-Secession Law. Beijing, seizing the chance of Chiang's visit and thereby pushing for talks between the KMT and CCP, attempts to develop an atmosphere of reconciliation across the Taiwan Strait and then gradually putting forward steps or plans to alleviate cross-Straits tensions. Beijing's move has not only made the KMT look good but also has convinced Washington that it is 'as good as its words.' On the other hand, Beijing can complete its strategic planning for Taiwan step by step as it planned and squeeze the space for 'Taiwan independence secessionists' in Taiwan and in the world."

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